

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019799  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 L-03 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /033 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:EESVENDSEN:JWM  
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH  
-----290347Z 096845 /62

R 281730Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019799

FROM AF/W

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, BDIS, LI

SUBJECT: AZUZA MINING COMPANY

1. ON JANUARY 26 THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AZUZA MINING COMPANY, MESSRS. HATKOFF FATHER AND SON (PRESIDENT AND TREASURER RESPECTIVELY) AND MR. ROY WRIGHT CALLED ON THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS THEIR COMPANY'S PLIGHT REGARDING THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A GOLD MINING CONCESSION IN LIBERIA. AZUZA CLAIMS IT OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE GOL ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO TO TEST AND DRILL FOR GOLD NEAR THE CAVALLA RIVER, AND IN FACT DISCOVERED A COMMERCIALY VIABLE LODE. THEIR APPLICATION IN OCTOBER 1975 FOR A CONCESSION TO MINE AN 84.375 SQ. MI. AREA LOCATED NEAR THE IVORY COAST BORDER, HOWEVER, WAS BLOCKED BY LANDS AND MINES MINISTER AARON HOLMES, SUPPORTED BY MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO CHARLES CLARKE AND OTHERS. AZUZA HAS RETAINED SPEAKER HENRIES AS ITS LAWYER AND HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM A.B. TOLBERT, BUT TO NO AVAIL SO FAR.  
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2. AZUZA FEELS ITS CONCESSION APPLICATION IS BEING UNFAIRLY AND ILLEGALLY BLOCKED. AZUZA HAD NO OPTION TO DEVELOP ANY FIND IT MIGHT HAVE MADE. IT BASES ITS CLAIM ON PRIOR APPLICATION FOR THE AREA IN QUESTION. IT HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MINISTER HOLMES STATING THE

CONCESSION CANNOT BE GRANTED BECAUSE OF CERTAIN VIOLATIONS OF LIBERIAN LAW, BUT THE LETTER DOES NOT SPECIFY AZUZA'S VIOLATIONS.

3. AS OF JULY 1976 AZUZA HAD INVESTED \$400 THOUSAND INTO THIS PROJECT. IT CLAIMS FURTHER INVESTMENT CAPITAL IS AVAILABLE IF IT OBTAINS THE CONCESSION. THE PROJECT WOULD REQUIRE \$2 MILLION AND 70 EMPLOYEES, TEN PERCENT OF THEM EXPATRIATE.

4. TO SUPPLY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND, AZUZA WILL REQUEST ANOTHER HATKOFF SON NOW IN MONROVIA AND NAMED REID, THE COMPANY VICE PRESIDENT, TO PREPARE A BRIEF WHICH HE WILL SUBMIT TO THE EMBASSY SHORTLY. THE DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED ONLY TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AND CONSIDER WHAT, IF ANY, ASSISTANCE THE USG MAY APPROPRIATELY GIVE. IN THE INTERIM, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND INFO EMBASSY CAN SUPPLY ON AZUZA AND ITS OFFICERS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Drafter:** EESVENDSEN:JWM  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** EMIN, BDIS, LI, AZUZA MINING CO  
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**Review Markings:**  
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